

News & Event for October 2020



Red Deer Arts Council AGM October 20 Festival Hall 6 pm

We are grateful for your patience as we worked out a few details to organize our upcoming AGM. Following the official activities, we will offer a Creative Connections presentation with a film we commissioned for Alberta Culture Days' student presentation this year. No-contact refreshments provided. We have some board members saying farewell, for now, whom we thank sincerely for all their contributions to the arts council and some new members looking to join the Board of Directors. We'll also be voting on a new Mission and Vision statement.

Ross Street Singers is back!

After a spring of Zoom classes and a summer hiatus, we are very excited to announce the return of the Ross Street Singers as a live in-person activity! The free choir class, previously offered at the Hub on Ross, will now be delivered at Gaetz United Church with Danica Hoffart leading the choir moving forward. Everyone is welcome to attend, and the venue is accessible to those with mobility issues. (If the Hub reopens, we'll return there!) A mask is required while singing and other safety measures to comply with AHS protocols are in place to ensure everyone can be together and sing safely. Please join Danica and the group every Friday morning 10:30am – 12:00pm at Gaetz United Church's Pioneer Room (downstairs.) Come sing along!



"Burning Man" with Mary Guthro Sabbe
Artists and Collectors Series

October 14, 2020
6:30 - 8:00pm

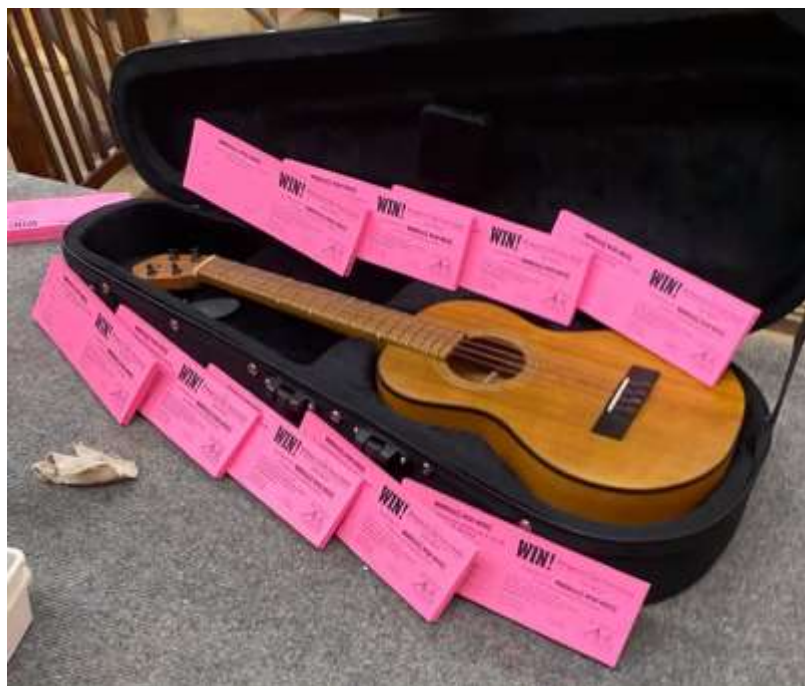
Join Mary Sabbe, local multi-media artist and builder within the 'large art' community, as she shares her experiences with "Burning Man".

Join the MAG & the RDAC on Wednesday, October 14th for our next **Art Speaks** presentation! We're going to hear from Mary Sabbe about her experiences creating new works for the Burning Man festival! We're looking forward to great pictures and stories of her experiences at this unique annual event. Call Suzanne 403-348-2787 for the RDAC discount code!

The Central Alberta Film Festival is back for 2020!

CAFF is back and we are excited to support their safe, socially distant event! The annual event is happening for the first time at a newly renovated Festival Hall starting on October 14th! Tickets can be purchased at cafilmfestival.ca! Get tickets to the film blocks and an awards gala on Saturday October 17th! Check out some great locally created films among the official selections & support Alberta's cinematic arts industry! Full details at cafilmfestival.ca!

GUITARZ FOR KIDZ
A committee of the Red Deer Arts Council



The **Guitarz for Kidz** Committee of the RDAC is holding a new raffle in support of their program! You can win a mahogany & cedar tenor ukulele handcrafted by David at Gilmore Guitars! Tickets on sale now! Draw date December 18th – just in time for the holidays! Buy yours from any board or committee member. Tickets are \$2 apiece. Raffle License 564993. If you know a child in need or you have a guitar to donate, please email guitarzforkidz@gmail.com for more details.

RDAC Visual Arts Committee – The Kiwanis Gallery is still accepting exhibition submissions for the 2022-2023 calendar years! You have until October 16th to be considered for a show in the next round! Download the Call for Entry and Submission Details at <https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/about-red-deer-arts-council/visual> and be a part of the action!

RDAC'S COVID Fun Facts! We are delighted to report that our two COVID-inspired programs from this summer – the 2020 Online Arts Festival and the “In the Neighbourhood” Concert Series were both huge successes! We were able to pay artist fees amounting to \$2,900 to artists young and adult for the many works we shared throughout May – August. We also hired 12 musical acts for a total of \$4,200 in performance fees for our inaugural concert series! We want to thank the City of Red Deer and Red Deer County for their contributions to making each of these programs happen!



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts

~Creativity Understood~

Activist Arts Collective is Building a Puppet Government

Matt Gould was never one to have his hand in politics, but now he's creating his own political stage.

"Too much is happening right now. How many more pretty pictures of flowers are we (artists) going to paint when the world is burning?" he says.

Gould is now heading up the enthusiastically political Red Deer Puppetry Collective. Hand puppets depicting provincial politicians have been the stars of the first two shows. He and the handful of activist artists behind the bobbing little bodies are hoping their political satire will motivate audiences not to sit passively on their own hands.

"I should thank the UCP for firing me up. We want to challenge the powers that be, while activating the people – all with humour and good high spirits," he says.

Gould, a multi-disciplinary artist, has been known around Red Deer for his exhibits and for teaching at Red Deer College, but mainly for 10 years as artistic director with Tree House Youth Theatre. While his previous artwork has reflected his views on social issues and raised philosophical questions about topics like religion or gender, he has admittedly shied away from taking open political positions.

"I've circled around that before in my work."

Now in his early 60s, Gould says he's more interested in creating art that will leave a mark, and not just be another project for the sake of creating. The incendiary moment for him came during the last provincial election campaign.

"I was so alarmed at what I was seeing when the UCP were mounting their campaign that I joined the NDP and volunteered for Red Deer South."

After the UCP victory, Gould struggled with his perception of Red Deerians. He was plagued by the thought that so many around him had voted for a party with such "destructive and dismissive" ideas.

When he heard about an anti-UCP rally scheduled in February 2020, he asked permission to produce a puppet show. Gould has a penchant for puppets, having used them in a few Tree House productions and in the course he taught at RDC. He finds puppets and masks allow actors "to say and do and be outrageous."

The rally organizers agreed, so he reached out to his local arts connections to help put together a satire that vented his anger and frustration with the Kenney government.

"The second our characters came out, the audience went crazy," he recalls. "They were shouting and swearing and screaming at the puppets."

That reinforcement led Gould to gather more artists for another puppet show, which they filmed and posted online. Titled Back Kountry Boi, it satirizes Jason Nixon's energy-friendly environmental policies.

Gould is also working on a show about respectful discussion of controversial issues that he hopes can be worked into a partnership with Red Deer Public Library. The collective is considering what other social issues they want to tackle and is building a stage for further live shows.

"There are about eight of us circling the wagons," Gould says.

To view Back Kountry Boi, visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwIE-eEKTjA>.



Matt Gould of the Red Deer Puppetry Collective surrounded by puppet effigies of Adriana LaGrange, Tyler Shandro, and the imaginary children of Jason Nixon: Clementine and Jedediah.